

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-11, 14-20, 23-25 and 27 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 14, 17-19, 23-25 and 27 are amended. No new matter is added. Claims 2, 3, 12, 13, 21, 22, 26 and 28 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter of those claims. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to claims 3, 5, 8, 17, 18 and 27 for containing minor typographical errors. The above claims are amended in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation, in order to obviate this objection.

The Office Action rejects claims 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as directed to nonstatutory subject matter. The cancellation of claims 21 and 22 renders this rejection moot.

The Office Action rejects claims 25-28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,100,999 to Ikegami. Additionally, the Office Action rejects claims 1-28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikegami in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0107858 to Lundahl et al. (hereinafter "Lundahl"). The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

The Office Action concedes that Ikegami does not teach "a monotone decreasing and smooth function of the color signal," as positively recited in amended claims 1, 9, 11, 19, 23 and 24, but relies on Lundahl to overcome this deficiency of Ikegami. These assertions are incorrect for the following reasons.

The Office Action, on page 7, asserts that Lundahl teaches a monotone decreasing and smooth function of the color signal as positively recited in amended claim 1. The Office Action relies on para. [0231] of Lundahl as teaching the above feature. This reliance is incorrect.

Lundahl teaches, in para. [0231], that the vector $B(i,:)$ is monotonic. Further, Lundahl teaches a matrix B such that $B(i,j) = R(F(i,j), p, s(i) - p, \phi_i)$. Lundahl further defines, in para. [0031], that $B(i,:)$ is a vector consisting of the i -th row of matrix B . However, Lundahl does not teach that the vector $B(i,:)$ is a monotonic decreasing and smooth function as positively recited in amended claims 1 and 11.

Additionally, Lundahl fails to teach calculating the weighted difference d_w (corresponding to the color signal pair accuracy as positively recited in the pending claims) using the monotonic vector $B(i,:)$.

With respect to claims 25 and 27, the Office Action asserts that Ikegami teaches predicting at least a part of an input color signal from a counterpart output color signal, as positively recited in the amended claims. This assertion is incorrect for the following reason.

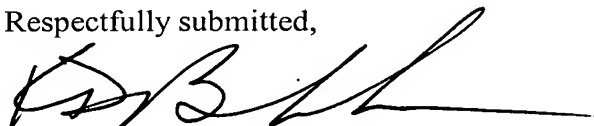
Ikegami, in col. 7, lines 44-46, teaches that x_{4j} , a prediction-source value, is one component of real input signal data. As such, x_{4j} is not a value obtained by prediction, but is instead a real value. The subject matter of amended claims 25 and 27 recite "predicting at least a part of an input color signal from a counterpart output color signal and the rest part of the input color signal using the obtained inverse model."

For at least the above reasons, Ikegami and Lundahl do not teach, nor would they have suggested, the combination of features as positively recited in independent claims 1, 9, 11, 19, 23-25 and 27. Further, claims 4-8, 10, 14-18 and 20 are also allowable at least for their dependence on the independent claims as enumerated above, as well as for the separately patented subject matter that each of these claims recite.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 4-11, 14-20, 23-25 and 27 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representatives at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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